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MELKSHAM URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1943.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Population: The official estimated figure was 6587.
Area (in acres): 1042.

No new building was carried out and consequently with the increase of population as from the first year of the war there was some over-crowding but probably less than in 1942 owing to a number of evacuated people returning to their homes. In any case, it was impossible to deal adequately with this over-crowding, mainly due to the fact that it is the Council's obligation to find alternative accommodation for all persons where action is taken upon these grounds.

Dirty and insanitary conditions were present in a certain number of cases, generally in houses where, according to the facilities available, it would be least expected. In other words it is the inhabitants of the houses who are the cause of the lack of cleanliness.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Registrar General's figures:

Live Births:	Male	78	Female	69
	Female	69		
	Total:	147		
Legitimate	Male	71	Female	64
Illegitimate	Male	7	Female	5

Still Births: 2.

According to the figures I receive and these include all births occurring in this area and not corrected for children born of mothers evacuated to this district my register shows as follows:

Total Births: 357

Legitimate	Male	145	Female	152
Illegitimate	Male	26	Female	34

Born in hospital: 308. At home: 49.

Birth rate 22.3 per 1000.

Deaths: Male 31 Female 24.

No woman died in consequence of child birth.

Four children died under one year old.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis.

Four deaths occured from Influenza but none from notificable infectious disease.

There were no deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 11.

Infectious Disease.

Scarlet fever	12
Whooping Cough	16
Diphtheria	NIL
Erysipelas	1
Measles	98
Pneumonia	7

This is the first year since I have been Medical Officer that no cases of Diphtheria have been reported, and this is undoubtedly due to the high degree of immunization in the district. The bulk of the immunization is carried out by the Health Department of the Wilts. County Council, the remainder by private doctors, I do not receive notice of the numbers in

either of these cases but my information is that the percentage is quite satisfactory. Nothing short of 100% would be ideal.

During this year only one case occurred in the adjoining Rural District, this was in a non-immunized child and proved fatal.

The measles and whooping cough figures do not give a true picture of the scale of the epidemic as very many cases are not reported to doctors and are therefore not notified to me.

Tuberculosis: I regret I am unable to give accurate figures of this.

Civil Defence.

As Medical Officer to this service and as Medical Officer to the Melksham First Aid Post I should like to pay tribute to the keenness and high standard of efficiency of all personnel under my charge. The turn out on every occasion for practice was over 100% so that had real action developed we should have had reserves at our disposal.

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